

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 7th June 1902.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd June says that it is the popular impression that the new sovereign of England does not like to make war with the Boers, and he and his Ministers are therefore making overtures of peace. The *Englishman* newspaper, however, says that the King has no power to interfere with the actions of his Ministers, and that it is simply to conceal the unsatisfactory result of the Boer war that the latter are attributing the peace to the desire of the King.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
June 2nd, 1902.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 23rd May says that as usual the Court peons in Chittagong town were playing cards one night. In a quarrel over the play one of them beat another and caught him by the throat. At this the man died. The next day it was given out by the other peons that he had died in a fit of epilepsy, and the dead body was cremated. Some people smelled the truth, but were prevented from speaking out.

SANSODHINI,  
May 23rd, 1902.

3. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th May complains of the frequency of theft and murder in Kishorganj town in the Mymensingh district. A few days ago thieves entered the house of Babu Gauri Kanta Ray, mukhtar, and cut off his head. The other day they entered the house of Babu Kailash Chandra De, broke open his iron-chest, and stole Rs. 3,000 in cash and ornaments. They left a bundle of keys and a sharp knife in the house. In the same night they attempted to commit theft in the houses of three local pleaders. Thefts have been committed in the houses of many pleaders and mukhtars. The local people are in a panic. Lights are kept burning all night in their houses. The matter should draw the immediate attention of the Government.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 27th, 1902.

4. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 28th May says that in order to reform the police it is necessary to determine why the police is oppressive. Sir John Woodburn says that the police is corrupt because policemen are not allowed adequate salaries. But people of a disputatious turn of mind will contend that, as there is no limit to human greed, mere increase of pay cannot be a sure cure for corruption. They will have no difficulty in citing cases in which officers drawing fat pay have been guilty of corruption or defalcation. Most people will take bribes if they find only facilities for doing so. Macaulay says that at one time corruption was very prevalent among the members of the British Parliament, so that Sir Robert Walpole would say that each member had his price. The police in this country is not only corrupt, but oppressive in diverse ways. When people complain against the police the Magistrates refuse to entertain their cases, and if anybody be obstinate enough to press such a charge he is prosecuted under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code; witness the Nursing case at Chapra, the case of Nandi Hariani of Dinajpur, and the Muhurum case in Rajshahi. Why should not the police oppress when so encouraged? But it is otherwise in England, where a police officer guilty of oppression is always condignly punished.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
May 28th, 1902.

Once two members of the London Mounted Police had bound a man to their saddles by both his hands. The man could not keep pace with the horses and fell down. Seeing this act of horrid oppression the bystanders at once arrested the policemen and handed them over to the police. The police officers were convicted and sentenced to seven years' hard labour each. Mr. Roe may profitably reflect upon the treatment he would have received from the London mob if he had been a London Magistrate and disposed of cases against the police in the way he is disposing of such cases in Rajshahi.

5. The same paper says that the inefficiency of the Khulna police has been signally proved in certain cases tried in the late sessions. In one of these cases the police sent up

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.



one Bimala Charan Banerji as the murderer of a prostitute named Haridasi on the strength of the sole evidence of the woman's former paramour, Lalit Mohan Ray. The Sessions Judge acquitted the accused with the remark that the woman must have been murdered by Lalit or some person employed by him. A fresh investigation will, therefore, be held in the case. In another case—a case of rioting, in which a man was killed and two others were wounded—the police sent up a number of people as offenders. The then Sessions Judge, Mr. Palit, however, discharged the man who had been accused of the murder on the ground that his enemies had got up a case against him before the police appeared on the scene. Not satisfied with this, the discomfited police thought of appealing against the decision, but the Legal Remembrancer did not approve of this course. The Police Superintendent then pressed the Magistrate for a fresh trial, urging that considerable fresh evidence had been secured. There was thus a retrial and many new persons were placed on their trial. But, strange to say, all these people have been acquitted by the present Sessions Judge. In another case a brother of one Madhab Karmakar was sent up by the police as the murderer of Madhab on the strength of the sole evidence of a witness who was subsequently found to be the creature of a person who is a bitter enemy of the accused. The case was dismissed. The investigating Sub-Inspector stated that he had sent up the accused at the order of the Police Inspector.

SANJIVANI,  
May 29th, 1902.

6. Referring to the Rajshahi affair, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th May writes as follows:—

The Rajshahi affair.

It is a novelty to see a District Superintendent of Police disregarding the judgment of a District Judge in the manner in which Mr. Ryan, the District Superintendent of the Rajshahi. Police, disregarded the judgment of Mr. Lee, the District Judge, in the murder case. There can be no doubt that a District Superintendent of Police and a District Magistrate would desire convictions in cases sent up by the police. Who can say how many innocent people will be ruined by the unholy union of judicial and executive functions? But can there be a greater wonder than to see a District Superintendent of Police publicly insulting a District Judge in the manner in which Mr. Ryan insulted Mr. Lee in the quarrel over a road? All this is leading people to think that all the executive officers in Rajshahi have made it a common cause to save their subordinate Sub-Inspector, Abdus Chhater.

SANJIVANI.

7. The same paper complains of the prevalence of theft in Beliaghatta, Calcutta. The principal article of theft is rice.

Theft in Beliaghatta, Calcutta.

Thieves come in numbers and carry off bales of rice, and none dare to oppose them. This is a kind of dacoity.. The police is indifferent in the matter. The Police Commissioner was petitioned, but to no effect. The matter requires immediate attention of the Government.

HITAVADI,  
May 30th, 1902.

8. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th May writes:—

The junior daroga of the Satahata thana in the Midnapore district.

In our issue of the 2nd August last there appeared a statement to the effect that Babu Surendra Nath Mukherji, the junior daroga of the Satahata thana in the Midnapore district, had been sending home incredibly large sums of money by money-order. The daroga suspected Babu Isan Chandra Maiti, Secretary of the Dora Krishnagar School and a member of the Tamluk Local Board, or somebody under him to be the person who had sent this information to this paper. It so happened that later on in that very month, Babu Isan Chandra was suspected to have embezzled certain moneys collected by him as chaukidari panchayet. Babu Surendra Nath investigated the charge and made a most damaging report against Isan Babu, asking for a warrant against him under sections 409 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code. But the charges fell through and Isan Babu was convicted and fined simply on a charge of having kept the papers of the panchayet irregularly. For some time the police were not able to incriminate anybody connected with the school, although they threatened several times to implicate the school people in any serious crime that might take place in the village.

On the 19th March Bipin Maiti of the village made over to the custody of the village chaukidar one Ambica Makar, whom he caught fishing surreptitiously in his tank. The chaukidar reported at the thana that certain relatives of the



accused person together with Babu Sanjivan Gura, a teacher of the school, had snatched him away from his lawful custody. Overjoyed at this, Babu Surendra Nath came to the village on the 20th March for the purpose of an investigation. In the course of the investigation nothing was said against Sanjivan Babu by anybody. On the following day, however, Sanjivan Babu was arrested, to his great amazement, by a constable who had been furnished by Surendra Babu with a warrant on that behalf. When the case came on for hearing, the complainant said in cross-examination that Sanjivan Babu simply stood by and that he had taken no part in the snatching away of the accused. The case was, however, dismissed without going into evidence, the pleaders on behalf of the accused pointing out that under the Fisheries Act an offender could not be arrested by any private person, and that it was therefore no offence to snatch away an offender who had been arrested by a private person, and the Magistrate recorded at the end of his judgment "Enter, mistake of law." But the prosecution does not seem to have been the result of a pure mistake. In the first place, a completely innocent person was prosecuted. In the second place, a warrant was issued against him as an absconding offender, although the police knew well that he was then serving as a teacher in the school. One cannot help suspecting that malice, too, had something to do with the prosecution. The authorities are requested to enquire into the following points:—

- (1) Whether it is not a fact that the investigating daroga has remitted home every month an amount very much larger than his pay and whether he had any lawful source of such income.
- (2) Whether or no many persons were threatened on suspicion of having communicated this information to this paper.
- (3) Whether the papers of the case do not furnish evidence of malice on the part of the police.

9. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 31st May says that Tofil Ali lives in the village Chenchua in the Howrah district.

A highway robbery in the Howrah district.

He had a bullock-cart. He used to load this cart with his village things and take them to Calcutta and sell them there. On the 30th Chaitra last he was returning home from Calcutta after selling a cart-load of tamarind. It was dusk when he reached Bargachia. In this place he smoked in the shop of one Khetra Mohan Datta who is well known to him. Here he met his old acquaintance Ibrahim, the officer in charge of the Bargachia outpost. He told Ibrahim that he had Rs. 17 with him. At the request of Ibrahim he went to drink toddy in a neighbouring toddy shop. There were many people unknown to him in the toddy shop. There he opened his purse, took some pice out of it, and drank toddy with them. Of course, everyone there could see the purse and the money in it. After satisfying himself with toddy, he resumed his journey. In a place between Bargachia and Jagadballavpur there is a brick-built house which is well known as a resting-place for wayfarers. Seeing a number of carters smoking the *hooka* in the house he went to them and smoked also. They asked him "Where are the four people who were coming behind you?" Tofil had not seen them and therefore made no answer. It was raining heavily at that time. At about 9 o'clock he started from the place. He proceeded on the road which passes through the field on the east of the Jagadballavpur railway station. Here two men got upon his cart. On being asked who they were, they said that they were wayfarers tired out by the rain and mud, and that they would remunerate him for using his cart. A few minutes after two other men came from the front and the four attacked him. He was gagged and tightly tied to the cart with a rope and his purse was taken away. He could neither cry nor move. He was saved by his bullocks who carried him home. The police has failed to trace this case. In his anguish Tofil has sold his bullocks and cart and given up trading with Calcutta. The local people have been frightened to hear of the occurrence of such a case near the Jagadballavpur railway station. Passengers alighting at the station from the night train have to go to villages eight or ten miles from that place. The police authorities should therefore be specially careful in the matter.

RANGALAY,  
May 31st, 1902.



MEDINI BANDHAV,  
June 2nd, 1902.

10. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 2nd June has learnt from a trustworthy source that some Sub-Inspectors of Police in the Midnapore district have been too long in the stations in which they are. Some of them are even reported to have rented land from zamindars and to be carrying on cultivation in the names of their wives or sons, while others are said to be carrying on money-lending business. The conduct of the late Sub-Inspector of Nandigram ought to have opened the eyes of the police authorities to the mischief of keeping a police officer too long in one station.

MEDINI BANDHAV.

11. The same paper is credibly informed that Mr. Lusson, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, has issued the following order to the zamindars of the district:—

Mr. Lusson's order in relation to the lands held by ex-chaukidars in the Midnapore district.

“ \* \* \* It is not the intention of Government that the ex-chaukidars should be ousted from the chaukidari lands which have been transferred to the zamindars, but that they should pay full rent to the zamindar without any *salami*. The zamindar has no cause for complaint, as he is only assessed with half the full rent of these lands \* \* \* ”

Let Mr. Lusson accept our endless gratitude for the protection thus afforded by him to the poor and distressed ex-chaukidars. Glory to Mr. Lusson!

(b)—Working of the Courts.

FARIDPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
May 29th, 1902.

12. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th May complains of the bad temper and foul tongue of the local Deputy Magistrate, Rai Jagaddurlabh Basak Bahadur. He browbeats and abuses complainants in such a way that they forget for the time the injury or thrashing that brought them to his Court for redress. This officer does not spare even the softer sex. Lately a case came on for hearing before him in which one Nobin Kundu of village Gohala within the Maksudpur thana sought the restitution of his young daughter who had been abducted from his house. In the course of the hearing of the case the girl, who is no more than 11 or 12 years old, got confused in consequence of the frowns and thunderings of the Deputy Magistrate. Her pleader having asked the Deputy Magistrate to treat the girl more mildly in consideration of her age, the Deputy Magistrate made a most coarse remark about a particular sign of her puberty. (ইহার \* \* \* উল্লেখ, এটা আবার বালিকা কি?) The girl's mother was treated with no greater courtesy. On her hesitating for a reply when asked her age, the Deputy Magistrate enquired how many deliveries she had had (কয় বিবাহ দিয়াছিল). This conduct of the Deputy Magistrate was at once reported to the District Magistrate, who, instead of transferring the case to another Court, only sent a slip to the Deputy Magistrate.

The English Government has disgraced the judicial tribunal by entrusting a person so vulgar and free-tongued with judicial powers. Formerly in making appointments to high posts regard was had to caste and birth, but thanks to the competitive system, smiths, potters, weavers, &c., are now gracing judicial seats. Faridpur is now full of unrest in consequence of people not obtaining redress in the law courts. Fortunately for Babu Jagaddurlabh the complainant in this case was a gentle Hindu. If he had treated a Muhammadan complainant or the female members of a Muhammadan family in that way, he would have been treated just as Mr. Mackay, a former Magistrate of this district, was treated by the Musalmans of Kamalapur.

HITAVADI.  
May 30th, 1902.

13. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th May says that the Subdivisional Officer of Kishorganj is in the habit of abusing parties and witnesses in his Court in such abusive words as শান, শানি, হারামজাদা, হারামজাদী, &c. Not even a fourth of the postponements in his Court are entered in the order sheet. Defendants and witnesses in cases under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code are detained by him for days together until they are obliged to furnish bonds. Witnesses for the Crown do not get their diet-money. He is in the habit of leaving his Court whimsically and holding it till 8 or 9 P.M.



14. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 31st May says that the following points in connection with the Rajshahi murder case and its sequelæ are most obscure and require to be

BANGAVASI,  
May 31st, 1902.

The Rajshahi murder case  
cleared up:—

(1) The writing on the paper which was alleged to have been found on the dead body was legible and the paper itself did not blot when written upon. This could not be the case with a paper that had been in water, as was alleged, for two days.

(2) Mr. Rattray declared on oath that the purse had not been changed. What reason is there, then, for disbelieving his statement? The Judge says that the Daroga's witnesses at once declared the purse to have been changed without inspecting it. The daroga says that he made a particular mark on the purse with a needle and red thread. But he does not say how he found a needle and red thread there. How can it then be believed that the purse had been changed?

(3) Why were not the depositions made by Mr. Rattray's peshkar and two other persons in Mr. Twidell's court recorded?

(4) Why were the depositions of the witnesses of the accused Abdus Sattar taken without first framing a charge against him?

(5) Seeing that the three persons sent up by Abdus Sattar have all been acquitted, why has the head-constable, Kunjabehari Mitra, been temporarily suspended?

The reflections made by Mr. Lee, the Chief Judicial Officer of the district, on the conduct of the police have created unrest in the public mind.

(d)—Education.

15. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd June is sorry that the present policy of the Government is to put obstacles in the way of high education. Some of the members of the University Commission have also given their opinion against high education.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
June 2nd, 1902.

Government's attitude towards  
high education.

(e)—Local-Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

16. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th May says that the affairs of the Mymensingh Municipality are being managed very badly, and requests the Municipal Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be more vigilant. The roads are simply impassable, and the early rains have added to the hardship of the pedestrian. The drains are neglected and the *mehter* service is of a most perfunctory character. The municipal lamps do not give bright light, and are seen to go out in many places even before midnight.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 27th, 1902.

The conservancy arrangements are equally unsatisfactory. The other day a dead horse was allowed to rot in the street in sudder ghat and the Municipality took no notice of it till very late.

17. Referring to the case in which the Calcutta Municipality was charged with having distrained movable property in No. 23, Chakrabere Road, Bhawanipur, belonging to Babu Nagendra Nath Basu, for unpaid municipal rates for No. 1, Chetla Road belonging to a wholly different person and which has been decided by the First Munsif of Alipore against the Municipality in spite of the Chairman's plea that his bailiff acted in good faith, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th May writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,  
May 30th, 1902.

"Every man is capable of making mistakes. But should not every man be cautious before working a mistake into *zulm*? If a man suffers loss for the mistake of another, why should not the man who makes the mistake be held responsible for it? The Chairman must be a perfectly shameless man when he could urge such a plea as he did urge in order to save his bailiff. The bailiff's action was the result not of good faith, but inadvertence and culpable neglect of duty. The moral of the new Municipal Government of Calcutta is that we should pay the taxes and the municipal servants should squander our money."



## (g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

HITAVADI,  
May 30th, 1902.

Passenger traffic on the Assam  
Bihar State Railway.

18. The Dinajpur correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th May complains of the insufficient supply of trains on the Assam-Bihar State Railway, which causes large numbers of passengers to be daily detained in the Parbatipur Junction station owing to the enforcement of the rule that every bench should carry not more than four people. One or two goods trains are daily seen to carry passengers from Parbatipur to Katihar. But even this is not sufficient to meet the pressing demand. The number of passenger trains on the line should be increased by at least two, one up and one down. The number of carriages in each passenger train should also be increased.

HITAVADI.

19. The same paper has the following:—

Railway complaints.

(1) Some time ago a railway guard named Willis, in the employ of the East Indian Railway Company, was fined Rs. 30 for having assaulted a doctor in the Asansol station. We have been astonished to learn that this man is still in the service of the Company, and that the recommendation has also been made that his fine may be paid from the Company's Fine Fund. All this shows that the higher officers in the Railway service also sometimes deviate from the path of duty and take the side of offending employes.

(2) A native was some time ago severely bruised by an engine which was being shunted by one Charles Wells Raymond in the Naihati station. The shunter did not think it necessary to take him to Hooghly for medical treatment. He was left to his fate and he died. The District Magistrate of the 24 Parganas placed the matter at the discretion of the Agent of the East Indian Railway for disposal. Mr. Dring, the Agent, said that the shunter did not take up the wounded man on the engine for fear of his being killed by its heat. But the shunter said that he did not think that the wound was very serious, else he would have taken up the man. Now, whose version is to be believed? That of Mr. Dring or that of the shunter? The Joint-Magistrate of Alipore has fined the shunter Rs. 20. But is a fine of Rs. 20 sufficient punishment for an offence which cost the life of a man? We ask the Government, is no one responsible for the action of Mr. Dring who tried to hush up the matter either by falsehood or by means of an inadequate enquiry? When Government is the owner of the East Indian Railway, we ask, what does it mean to do with this worthless Agent after he has created such a scandal?

HITAVADI.

20. A correspondent of the same paper says that recently a contractor of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway attempted to outrage the modesty of a young Brahman lady who was alone in a female compartment between the stations Ulubaria and Bagnan and failing in his attempt bit and scratched her. Her husband and a number of fellow-passengers, who were in another compartment, caught him when the train reached Bagnan and handed him over to the station-master. It is now rumoured that the station-master has let him off. The matter requires a vigorous and sifting enquiry, as it concerns a young Hindu lady who naturally feels ashamed to speak out the worst.

A railway complaint.

21. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 31st May says that the Hara road, which is the only road leading to Paratal in the Burdwan district, is full of mud and water and has jungle growing on both sides of it. Tigers sometimes come out of this jungle and sometimes cattle get imbedded in the mire and die. The District Board has done nothing up to this time to remedy this state of things.

BANGAVASI,  
May 31st, 1902.

A road in the Burdwan district.

22. Referring to the Government grant of Rs. 100 as compensation to the son of the old woman who was recently killed by a stray bullet from the Belgharia shooting ground north of Calcutta, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of 30th May expresses regret that the value of the life of a native is set at such a low price by the Government. It is an act of great recklessness to fix a shooting ground in the midst of a populated locality, and it is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will prevent the possibility of the recurrence of the sad event by ordering a change of its site.

HITAVADI,  
May 30th, 1902.

The Belgharia shooting ground.

(h)—General.



## III.—LEGISLATION.

23. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 29th May urges that Maulvi Sirajul Islam is the fittest person to represent the Chittagong Division on the Bengal Council. Three-fourths of the population of Chittagong are Musalmans, and the condition of the Musalmans is becoming worse every day. It is the weaker party which stands in most need of an advocate. The Musalmans often bring the charge against the Hindus that when any particular political privilege is won by the united efforts of Hindus and Musalmans, it is the former who reap the benefit of it. If a competent Musalman representative is not returned from a division in which Musalmans form the bulk of the population, the charge will appear a colourable one. The Hindu candidates should therefore withdraw from the contest. By so doing they will render a greater service to the country than they could by representing it in the Council.

JYOTI,  
May 29th, 1902.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th May says that the imposition of countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar will not in itself improve the condition of native sugar manufacturers. It is only if Government spends the revenue realised from the tax in helping them to compete successfully with foreign manufacturers that they would be really benefited. But if it is spent in helping the indigo-planters of Behar in their sugar manufacture, the native sugar manufacturers will derive no benefit whatever. The countervailing duty is therefore only a fresh taxation imposed upon natives.

HITAVADI,  
May 30th, 1902.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 27th May says that the absence of all festivities in India on the Coronation day will not be agreeable to the taste and traditions of the people of India. The people of India are as much loyal subjects of Emperor Edward VII as Englishmen themselves. Why, then, should the former make no demonstration, while the latter will have amusement and merry-making to overflowing? The other day a meeting was held in the Calcutta Town Hall to consider the desirability or otherwise of making demonstrations in the metropolis on the Coronation Day. Mr. Greer, Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, presided, and among those present were Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohun Tagore and Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna. It was decided that no demonstrations could be held on the Coronation day, as the Government of India has desired that there will be universal rejoicings all over India on the 1st January 1903 in connection with the Emperor's Coronation. But on that day the chiefs, princes, maharajas, rajas, zamindars, in fact, almost all the notabilities of India will be assembled at the Delhi Darbar; and it is doubtful if festivities can be held with due pomp and splendour in the different towns of India in their absence on that day. Be that as it may, whatever might be the date and the place of the festivities, let not the rejoicings consist merely of fireworks, illuminations and decorations.

BURDWAN  
SANJIVANI,  
May 27th, 1902.

Feasting the poor forms the most prominent feature of a festive occasion in India; and let not this be omitted or forgotten in the Coronation festivities in India.

26. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 29th May complains that the *Mohanta* of Barabakunda is realising cesses from the pilgrims, although all such cesses were declared illegal by the High Court long ago. The iron net which was spread over the well in the shrine to prevent accidents was removed some time ago having been torn in some places, and it has not been replaced since. The *Mohanta* says that he can get no smith to repair it. No smith will, of course, repair it gratis. The *Mohanta* spent so much as Rs. 600 or Rs. 700 the other day from the temple money on his daughter's marriage. The *Mohantas* have not yet submitted to the Endowment Committee a combined account of the temple funds. It is Government which has the power of legislation in this country. Who will then remedy the misuse of *devotter* property by the *Mohantas*?

JYOTI,  
May 29th 1902.



SANJIVANI,  
May 29th, 1902.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th May requests Government to look to the management of the vast estate left by the late Babu Gopal Lal Seal of Calcutta, lest it be ruined by mismanagement and litigation.

HITAVADI,  
May 30th, 1902.

28. Referring to the birthday anniversary of the great Mahratta hero, Sivaji, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th May writes as follows:—

Though born in the Maharastra country, Sivaji won the reverence of all India. During the last century there was not born in India a greater defender of the Hindu faith. The sole aim of his life was to give to India the precious treasure of independence. What Hindu is there who will not heartily join the anniversary of the birthday of the man who gave his life to the attainment of such a noble object, whose efforts in that direction were crowned with partial success during his lifetime, and who inspired life into the sinking Hindu faith? But it is not only for his signal service to the Hindu religion that he is adored by the Hindus; his extraordinary talents, his inborn generosity, his filial reverence, the regard which he felt for his spiritual preceptor, the purity of his habits, his self-control, his equal treatment of all and many other sterling virtues have also made him the object of their adoration.

One peculiar trait in the character of the great Sivaji was that, although he was the founder of a Hindu kingdom, his conduct towards Muhammadans was extremely good. It was his possession of these rare virtues which has led historians to compare him with Alexander, Cæsar, Napoleon, Washington, Wallace, and Garibaldi. That all Indians should join in the celebration of the birthday of such a man is not to be wondered at. The Mahrattas of Calcutta had desired to celebrate it with great *éclat* on the 7th May last, but they were prevented by the plague. It is rumoured that they have now resolved to hold the celebration with great pomp and splendour on the 18th, 19th, and 20th June next. We are confident that the local people of all classes will join it with enthusiasm.

HITAVADI.

29. Referring to the outburst of Anglo-Indian sympathy with the sufferers in Martinique, the same paper cynically observes that the death of 40,000 white men has given occasion for an universal outburst of Anglo-Indian feeling, but the death of ten lakhs of Indians in the recent famines could not in the least move their hearts.

HITAVADI.

30. The same paper says that Government has not made a happy choice of its Indian Coronation guests. Many of these are not recognised in the country as popular leaders. On the other hand, the claims of those who are recognised leaders of the people and who are well known for their education and disinterested public life have been disregarded. Such a choice would have been worthy of a Moghul rule under which sycophants used to receive high honours at the hands of their sovereigns. The glory of the British rule would have shone brighter if the independent and sincere well-wishers of the country had been honoured on the present occasion.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,  
May 24th, 1902.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
May 24th, 1902.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
May 22nd, 1902.

31. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 24th May states that the weather is very warm and that rains are urgently needed. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st May states that there were rains in the Puri district, which have helped the cultivators to plough their lands.

32. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 22nd May states that vessels made of stone or brass in Balasore are in great demand in many parts of India. The establishment of an agency, called the Sreenath Agency in that town, to supply the demand for such vessels is noticed in favourable terms and an appeal is made to the public to help the Agency in the interest of inland trade.

UTKALDIPKA,  
May 24th, 1902.

33. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 24th May states that about 50,000 pilgrims congregated at Puri on the last Monday of the month of Baisakh last to make obeisance to the god Lokenath, and that the rite

A large congregation of pilgrims  
in Puri town.



and ceremonies in connection therewith passed off peacefully without any hitch or complaint.

34. The same paper regrets to learn that no Uriya passed in the last Mukhtarship examination, though five went up, and that one out of eight passed the last Pleader-ship examination. The writer, therefore, advises the candidates to prepare themselves thoroughly before going up to the examination.

UTKALDIPKA.

35. Referring to the illegal transfer of a record from the Subdivisional Officer of Jhenidah to the District Magistrate of Jessore under the orders of the latter, the same paper points out that complaints against the interference of the executive with the judiciary must never cease so long as the two functions are united in the same officer.

UTKALDIPKA.

36. Referring to the laudable efforts of the Muhammadan Hostel Fund Committee under the patronage of Mr. K. G. Gupta and the presidency of Mr. M. S. Das to collect funds with the object of building a house for the use of the Muhammadan students reading in the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, the same paper exhorts the public to help the undertaking by every means in their power. The writer observes that the proposed institution is meant for Muhammadans in all parts of Orissa, and that if the public contribute Rs. 2,000 Government may be induced to grant an equal amount towards the construction of a plain and decent house for the accommodation of Muhammadan pupils. A contribution of Rs. 1,600, already made by the public, proves that the scheme is a hopeful one.

UTKALDIPKA.

37. The Chairman of the Cuttack Municipality having, in his letter dated the 25th April 1902, addressed to the Rate-payers' Association, made an attempt to explain the reasons which led the Municipality to appoint a paid assessor to revise the municipal assessment and to correct the standing registers that were not corrected up-to-date by the municipal sirkars, the same paper adroitly turns the letter into a basis for an attack on the Chairman and his Councillors, who are represented as men incompetent to hold their respective posts, though the honesty of the Chairman's motives and his sympathetic attitude towards the Ratepayers' Association are admitted without reservation.

UTKALDIPKA.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

38. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 26th May says that the Sherpur steamer station in the Sylhet district is a resort of *budmashes*. The local *dak bungalow* is the only place in which passengers alighting at night in the station can find any shelter. But as the doors of this *dak bungalow* can be opened from outside, things belonging to unwary people sleeping in it are carried away by thieves. A number of Muhammadan *gundas* roam about the station with sticks and spears. Many people think that it was these *budmashes* who recently set fire to the station-house. Abangapur, a village near the station, is notorious as a seat of thieves, dacoits, and *budmashes*. The matter should be carefully enquired into by detectives, and securities should be taken from the principal *budmashes*.

PARIDARSAK.  
May 26th, 1902.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 7th June, 1902.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
Bengali Translator.



